



**Travelers cool it**  
Post Soldiers, Airmen,  
civilians hit slopes at Keystone, Colo.

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# Fort Riley Post

Court sport

Company teams  
continue play in two  
leagues

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Friday, February 11, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 6

## Around The Army

### Kuwait:

The European Stars and Stripes reported Feb. 9 that 15 crewmembers from the Navy sub tender and maintenance vessel USS Emory S. Land are working at Camp Buehring in northern Kuwait, where members of Fort Riley's 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, are staged. Since late January, the team of metal workers and hull technicians has been working 24 hours a day in three shifts to weld armor plating onto its newly adopted fleet, the vehicles used by the Army to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit [estripes.com](http://estripes.com) on the Web.

### Pentagon:

The Pentagon reported Jan. 14 that a Kentucky National Guardsman had been selected as the chief enlisted man for the Guard.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe is the eighth senior enlisted man to fill that position. He had served as Kentucky's senior National Guard enlisted advisor since 2002.

For more on this story and other military news in and around the Pentagon, visit [www.fmmc.army.mil/](http://www.fmmc.army.mil/) on the Web.

### Fort Houston:

The Mercury reported Feb. 7 that the Army Surgeon General had awarded his Excalibur Award for innovative programs to four Army Medical Department Activities.

Winn Army Community Hospital at Fort Stewart, Ga., won for creating a department of mobilization medical services.

Medical Command Headquarters won for its WOW (War on Waste) program committed to excellence, customer focus and process improvement.

The 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., won for its Rapid 91W (healthcare specialist) Transition Initiative.

The Mississippi Army National Guard Headquarters, Medical Detachment, Jackson, Miss., won for its revised physical examination process for Guardsmen older than 40.

For more on this story and other Medical Department Activity news, visit [www.armymedicine.army.mil/](http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/) on the Web.

### Aberdeen:

The APG News reported Feb. 3 that the environmental center commander and deputy commander, participated in the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge in the Chesapeake Bay Jan. 29.

Their participation helped raise more than \$500 to provide Christmas presents for the families of two deploying Soldiers.

For more on this story and other Aberdeen Proving Ground news, visit [www.apgnews.apg.army.mil/](http://www.apgnews.apg.army.mil/) on the Web.

## Budget seeks more for Soldiers

Bush proposal adds pay, benefits for active, reserve military members

By Donna Miles  
AFPS

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's proposed fiscal year 2006 budget calls for a 3.1 percent military basic pay hike, higher housing allowances and

more healthcare and educational benefits for the National Guard and Reserve.

The proposed fiscal year 2006 defense budget was unveiled Feb. 7. The proposed budget will be reviewed by members of Congress, who must determine what proposed spending will be kept or

changed in the final defense bill submitted to the president for signature.

The package of expanded benefits is part of what a senior defense official called a top priority in the president's \$419.3 billion budget request: "taking care of our forces."

"People are our most important asset. We can't do anything without our folks," the official told Pentagon reporters. "Our forces are the best-trained and best-organized on the globe, and we maintain our commitment to them."

The proposed military pay raise reflects a continued trend in

better compensation for service members. Incorporating the 3.1 percent military increase, basic pay will be up 25 percent since fiscal year 2001.

In terms of actual money in troops' pockets, the official told

See Bush budget, Page 2

## They're back



Post Photos/Blackmon

Above: Sgt. Jonathan Newlin's wife, Emy, welcomes him home with a hug and a kiss at the 977th MP Co. redeployment ceremony in Hangar 817 at Marshall Army Air Field Feb. 2.

At left: Newlin gives his daughter, Hope, a hug.



## MPs return from Baghdad

By April Blackmon  
Staff writer

Waiting with balloons, flowers, painted posters and much anticipation, families and friends watched as some 120 Soldiers marched into Marshall Army Air Field's Hangar 817 Feb. 2.

The Soldiers of the 977th Military Police Company were returning home after a six-month tour in Iraq.

The company deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This was the second rotation to Iraq for the company. During this rotation, the Soldiers established fixed security in the Baghdad area and conducted detainee operations.

Family members said they were excited to see their Soldiers return home.

"It's a wonderful feeling to have him home again," said Linda Towne about her son, Sgt. 1st Class John Richardson.

"We're very proud of him."

But not every Soldier found family members at the hangar.

Sgt. Jesus Delgado wasn't unhappy about lack of family to greet him — his family reunions took place in Iraq.

"I got to see my brother and sister while I was in Iraq," he said. He hadn't been able to see them much before because of their deployments.

"I can't see them there," he said.

See They're back, Page 2

## Air unit preps to leave desert

Med company  
coming home  
after Iraq duty

By Aaron J. Orr  
82nd Medical Company

After nearly a year in Iraq providing air medical evacuation service to Soldiers and civilians supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) is prepared to come home.

The unit's equipment and aircraft are packed and the Soldiers have moved to Kuwait.

"The Soldiers all know we're going home soon, and they're all highly motivated to redeploy," said 1st Sgt. Michael Mears, the unit's top enlisted Soldier, "even though the dates are still classified."

To the families back home, Mears said, "Hang in there. We're almost at our full year here. We're just hang in there. We'll be home soon."

The unit deployed to Iraq in February 2004.

## Attack survivor to speak

Staff report

A retired officer who survived the terrorist attack on the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001, is booked as the guest speaker for the National Prayer Luncheon at 11:45 a.m. Feb. 24 in Riley's Conference Center on post.

Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell was walking down a hallway when the hijacked airliner crashed into the Pentagon just yards away from him. He suffered burns over 60 percent of his body and required more than 30 operations during his recovery.

He will be available following the luncheon to autograph copies of his book "Refined by Fire," describing his ordeal and how it changed his life.

Tickets costing a suggested donation of \$6 are available from all chaplains on post.

The conference center, capable of seating 660 people, will be used for the luncheon. Video screens throughout the center will provide easy viewing of Birdwell's address.

## 'Dreadnaughts' arrive in Kuwait

Battalion joins 3rd Division's 'Sledgehammer' brigade

By Phil LaCasse  
2nd Bn., 34th Armor, SI

Report from  
Iraqi Freedom

All the anticipation ended Jan. 19 when Lt. Col. Oscar Hall IV, commander of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, addressed his Soldiers. "We have trained extremely hard for a long time, and now it's time to put on our game face and get on with business."

With that, the first flight of deploying "Dreadnaughts" Soldiers manifested at Craig Fitness Center and left Fort Riley for Southwest Asia.

The final flight of deploying "Dreadnaughts" arrived safely on

Jan. 21, completing the movement of more than 500 Soldiers from Fort Riley to Kuwait.

The battalion is currently at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, and is attached for the duration of the deployment to the 3rd Infantry Division's 3rd "Sledgehammer" Brigade from Fort Benning, Ga.

"We are proud to serve with the 'Dreadnaughts,'" said Col. Steven Salazar, commander of the

"Sledgehammer" brigade. "The 'Dreadnaughts' are trained, focused and exceptionally well led. It is a privilege to serve with them."

Since then, "Dreadnaught" Soldiers have been busy building combat power and conducting final preparations to move north into their area of responsibility in

See Armor, Page 3





## Post news in brief

### Holiday changes trash schedule

In observance of the President's Day holiday, the refuse schedule will change Feb. 21-25. The schedule will be:

**Feb. 21** – No pick up.

**Feb. 22** – Colyer Manor, Main Post, Marshall Army Air Field, dumpster at Building 621.

**Feb. 23** – Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Montieth Heights, Peterson Heights (north of Thomas Avenue), dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 470, 540, 541, 542 and 5309.

**Feb. 24** – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights, dumpster at Building 621. (No change from regular schedule.)

**Feb. 25** – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue), dumpster at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)

For more information, call 239-6274.

### Special Forces briefings set

Briefings for Soldiers interested in pursuing a career change to the Special Forces will be conducted on post at noon and 5 p.m. Feb. 22 and at 10 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. Feb. 23. Briefings will be conducted in the post retention office.

The Special Forces is seeking qualified Soldiers in grade E-4 to E-6 (some E-3s and E-7s are eligible) and first lieutenants and captains in year group 03.

For more information, call Special Forces recruiters at (877) 840-8502 or DSN 883-1461.

### Family group training set

Family Readiness Group Leader Basic Training is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Soldier and Family Support Center.

The training covers the responsibilities of an FRG leader, the goals of an FRG, supporting the military mission, effective ways of communicating with family members, the importance of distributing accurate information and maintaining confidentiality, volunteer positions and opportunities within the FRG and more.

To register for the class and childcare, call 239-9435.



**Sgt. Brian Carlton of the 977th Military Police Company at Fort Riley is greeted by his daughter, Brooke, and son, Hunter, after returning home Feb. 2 from a deployment to Iraq.**  
*Post/Blackmon*

## They're back

continued from page 1

Even without family to greet him, Delgado said he was glad to be home. "It feels so great to be here. I get to see all my friends,"

he said.

His children don't live with him at Fort Riley, so he will take leave to see them later, he said.

## CID detachment completes recent support mission

**By Jay Baker**

*Public affairs intern*

Twenty-one Soldiers of the 78th Military Police Detachment (Criminal Investigations Division) returned from Iraq to a welcome home ceremony Jan. 26 at the convention center on Fort Riley.

The unit, made up of Soldiers stationed throughout the western United States, left for Iraq in March 2004. During their tour of duty, the 78th MP Det. (CID) Soldiers investigated 500 cases and closed 600 cases, said Col. David LeMauk, 6th MP Group (CID) commander from Fort Lewis, Wash.

The detachment's wartime mission is to investigate detainee

abuses and terrorist acts.

LeMauk commands four battalions and a field office in Hawaii. The group's mission is to support CID operations from west of the Mississippi River to Asia.

The 1001st MP Battalion oversees five MP units, including the 78th MP Det. (CID). The battalion organized the group of Soldiers who volunteered from units across the entire group for the yearlong mission.

LeMauk said the unit's mission success and safe return of all Soldiers is a tribute to their training, camaraderie and leadership. "The 78th played a significant role in making a better life for those less fortunate, and their satisfaction for a job well-done is a reward in itself," he said.

## Bush budget

continued from page 1

reporters the 3.1 percent increase would raise basic pay for members in the lowest enlisted grade from \$12,000 in fiscal year 2005 to \$15,000 next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, 2005, and increase the pay of a second lieutenant or ensign from \$23,000 to \$28,000. Similarly, a sergeant who was earning \$30,000 in base pay in fiscal year 2001 will be making \$39,000 under the fiscal year 2006 budget, she said.

Federal civilian workers would receive a 2.3 percent pay hike.

The proposed budget provides a 4 percent increase in the basic

housing allowance to reduce and, ideally, eliminate out-of-pocket costs for servicemembers living in private housing.

The proposed budget continues to extend privatization to improve military housing and to maximize DoD housing budgets. By the end of fiscal year 2006 (Sept. 30, 2006), the official said, this effort is expected to have produced nearly 172,000 new high-quality family housing units during the previous 10 years.

Guard and Reserve members would receive additional benefits as well, including expanded TRI-

CARE eligibility that provides health coverage up to 90 days before activation and 180 days after mobilization for most members.

"This is a significant new benefit," the defense official said.

The budget also includes the GI Bill for Reservists that Congress passed last year to provide educational benefits for Guard and Reserve members who have been mobilized. These troops would qualify for up to 36 months of payments, from \$400 to \$800 a month, depending on the length of active service in support of a contingency operation.

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(From left) Spc. Corey Cornett, Sgt. Sean Cobb and Pfc. Nathaniel Durand, all of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, work on an engine in Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

## Armor

continued from page 1

Iraq. Motivation is extremely high in the battalion as the Soldiers and leaders as they demonstrate an eagerness to serve in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

"Now that we are doing our mission, motivation is definitely higher," said Sgt. Kevin Burkman from Austin, Texas. He works in the battalion S3 shop as one of the noncommissioned officers in charge of the Battalion Tactical Operations Center.

This deployment is the culmination of more than 18 months of training and preparation for the battalion, including multiple battalion gunnery, company and platoon Situational Training Exercises, language training, cultural awareness training, hand to hand combat, small-unit tactics training provided by a Special Forces team and a Mission Rehearsal Exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

"JRTC was the best training I've ever gotten in the Army preparing for Iraq. It was definitely realistic," said Spc. James Towne of Albany, N.Y. Towne serves in the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company as the command driver for Hall.

Many Soldiers said they were surprised to discover upon arrival at Camp Buehring that they still have many of the comforts of home.

The Soldiers live in large tents that have heat, air conditioning and electricity.

A 24-hour dining facility serves hot meals for breakfast, lunch, dinner and midnight dinner.

Additionally, two AAFES Post Exchange trailers include Subway, Baskin Robbins, two donut shops, a pizza place and more. A Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility has telephone and Internet service, a weight lifting tent and several tents for watching movies or television.

Early last week (the first week of February), the battalion's vehicles and equipment started to trickle in. By mid-week, the battalion was fully immersed in sending groups of Soldiers to the port, accounting for their vehicles and then forming convoys to drive them back to Camp Buehring.

The "Dreadnaughts" have accounted for every vehicle and piece of equipment they shipped from Fort Riley, freeing them up to work on vehicle maintenance.

Following initial maintenance operations, each company traveled to the tank gunnery range where each tank crew conducted a Live Fire Accuracy Screening Test on each type of ammunition and zeroed all crew-served weapons.

LFAST is the process by which tank crews can verify that the fir-

ing data in their ballistic computers is accurate for each different type of round that the tank may fire.

Each particular type of round will have a different flight path than another and consequently requires a different ballistic solution in the computer. LFAST allows the tank crews to verify that data.

Wheeled vehicles from the scout platoon, support platoon and staff have been used to train on a convoy live fire lane designed to train Soldiers operating in convoys to react quickly and decisively yet proportionally to anything that they might encounter while performing their mission.

The mortar platoon and Scouts have been busy running small arms ranges for all Soldiers in the battalion to give them the opportunity to fire each weapon system one more time to ensure that all of their equipment works to standard and that each Soldier is comfortable with his or her individual weapon.

The mortar platoon also conducted a live-fire exercise during which they validated their crew skills and tested out their equipment under combat conditions.

First sergeants, the Post wants to print news about your unit's activities. Awards for valor, training activities, community involvement and notable personal achievements by your Soldiers or their family members make good stories. Call the editor at 239-8854. Let's talk.

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# Army OKs \$250M for barracks upgrades

By Eric W. Cramer  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Soldiers living in barracks will see big improvements beginning this spring as the Army's Installation Management Agency begins to execute a \$250 million program to identify and upgrade the Army's most deficient barracks.

The funding was made avail-

able as a short-term fix to improve 177 barracks that were identified as "red," or substandard under the Installation Status Report.

The plan is to upgrade those facilities from red to amber within a year, said George Lloyd, a strategic planner for Unaccompanied Personnel Housing, said 177 barracks buildings require changes.

Fort Riley is one of 22 installa-

racks requiring upgrade.

Lloyd uses the medical term "triage" in which the most serious cases are treated first.

"We'll be working on those facilities that need the most work beginning in April 2005, and hope to finish up by September 2006," Lloyd said.

"We're in the process of triaging the 177 barracks to validate the criteria that rated them red and to make sure that they're not on

another list to be more comprehensively renovated in the next few months," said Ned Christensen, chief of public affairs for the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency.

"This funding gives IMA one more way to improve quality of life for our Soldiers," said Philip E. Sakowitz, deputy director of the Installation Management Agency. "... our plan is to spend about \$260 million a year to sus-

tain barracks facilities."

During the renovation process, some Soldiers will be moved out of barracks and off post.

Those most likely to be affected during the renovations are "geographic bachelors" – Soldiers at locations remote from their families.

Lloyd said some junior enlisted Soldiers also may be authorized Basic Allowance for Housing while renovations of their bar-

racks are under way.

"We've identified about 20,000 individual Soldiers' units we feel are critical, or 'red,'" Lloyd said. "Our goal is to make them more livable, get them to ... the 1+1 standard that is our goal."

"The 1+1 standard provides a two-bedroom module for every two junior enlisted Soldiers, and each noncommissioned officer is assigned individually to a two-room module," Lloyd said.



Post/Baker

## Paying Uncle Sam

One tax return specialist at the Fort Riley Tax Center, Building 7264, makes an appointment to help an eligible filer while others go over income information and fill out returns for patrons. The Tax Center staff helps active duty and retired military families prepare their federal and state tax returns. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. To make an appointment, call 239-1040. Walk-ins can also get help with filing their returns.

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# Commentary

Friday, February 11, 2005

Fort Riley Post

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## Riley Roundtable

### This week's question:

If you were the garrison commander, what would you do to improve Fort Riley?



"I'd make extra activities available on post."

**Pfc. Neal DeLude**  
Light-wheeled vehicle mechanic  
HHHC, 1st Bn., 16th Inf.  
Hometown: Charleston, Ill.



"I'd have new barracks and furniture for day rooms."

**Pvt. Matthew Hall**  
Light-wheeled vehicle mechanic  
1st Bn., 16th Inf.  
Hometown: Patla, Maine



"I'd have the commissary next to the PX."

**Carol Hunter**  
Retired Army family member  
Hometown: Junction City



"I'd make a bigger shopping area. We don't have a very good variety because we're so constrained by space."

**Twana Quick**  
Retired Army family member  
Hometown: Jackson, Tenn.



"I would improve or have more family activities, like concerts and movies. The PX also needs more items in it and better selections."

**Sgt. 1st Class James Holland Jr.**  
2nd Bn., 289th Field Artillery (TS)  
Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas

### Next week's question:

What is the most important aspect about being ready for deployment?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at [mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil) or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

## Safety and the environment Prescribed burns required annually

By Mike Cook  
Fort Riley Fire Chief

Each year, the Fort Riley Fire Department performs controlled burns throughout the installation to minimize risks associated with prairie fires. These controlled burns eliminate the heavy accumulation of dried undergrowth that supports wildfires and encourages growth of new surface vegetation.

Controlled burning also reduces the potential for an uncontrolled wildfire in the cantonment and housing areas.

The burns have the added advantage of minimizing insects and rodent habitat, reducing their impact on the housing areas.

All controlled burns are carefully planned and coordinated with the Directorate of Environment and Safety, public works, the fire department, range control



Mike Cook

and the Provost Marshal Office to ensure each activity is prepared to assist in controlling the fire and is ready to respond to any related inquiries or request for assistance.

During the months of March and April, the installation conducts controlled burns of areas of the installation to prevent wildfires. Some of these burns will be near housing.

Many areas around family housing are part of the tallgrass prairie and have been designated as high priority areas to burn this year. April 5-16 is the tentative period for the controlled burns,

but they also may be rescheduled anytime between now and May 15. Wind speed and direction are primary variables in the planning and implementation of controlled burns, so specific dates can't be given in advance.

Controlled burning is planned for the tallgrasses on the hills in the southwest part of Custer Hill. Portions of the area will be near Colyer Manor Housing Area but will not pose any danger to residents.

Smoke from the burning may present problems for adults and children with respiratory problems. Effective preventive measures include closing all windows and doors to reduce the amount of smoke entering the building and allowing the heating and cooling system to filter the interior air.

Because the burning will occur during school hours, the fire department will notify the nearby

schools before starting the controlled burn, so schools can take the recommended preventive measures.

Personnel and equipment will be staged to prevent the fire from entering the housing areas or schools.

This year, the fire department will also be control-burning woodpiles created by the fencing project on the installation. Although many of these woodpiles will be burned in conjunction with the controlled burning of grass, some may be burned before the March time frame. Please be aware that these are being closely monitored and are under complete control of the fire department.

Any residents who have questions or concerns about any burning activity in their area should call the Fort Riley Fire Department, 239-4257, and ask for the on-duty supervisor.

## Force, personal advancement Future of Army training available now

By Sharon Holmes  
Project Manager  
Distributed Learning

Step through the Army's portal to promotion points and better pay. Interested? Read on!

Imagine being able to go online, select a course that you need for promotion points or an upcoming deployment without leaving your duty station or your home. Now you can register for that course, take the course and have the results put in your training and personnel record for



Col. Sharon Holmes

credit accountability and, for enlisted personnel, promotion points.

You don't have to imagine being able to do this or wait for this to happen in the future

because... the future is now. The Army is embarking on a

course of action that will revolutionize Army training. The Distributed Learning System is breaking new ground by bringing training to the Soldier whenever and wherever needed.

Distributed learning instruction may not even require an instructor's presence. It can involve several types of media, and emphasizes the use of reusable content, networks and learning management systems. DLS has successfully fielded 274 fully operational Digital Training Facilities worldwide, including one at Fort Riley.

Distributed learning benefits include increased training flexibility and opportunities and less time away from their duty station and family.

It also improves training coordination and information access for Soldiers, leaders, training officers and NCOs in determining training needs and status.

For more information on your training future and the Fort Riley Digital Training Facility, visit the DLS Web site at [www.dls.army.mil](http://www.dls.army.mil), or contact the Fort Riley DTF manager at 239-4527 or Room DL-1 of Building 7285.

## Equal Opportunity Month offers time to celebrate history

By Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy  
Commanding General  
24th Inf. Div. (Mech)  
and Fort Riley

African-American/Black History Month is being celebrated Feb. 1-28 throughout our nation. The theme for the observance is "The Niagara Movement."

On Feb. 16 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., the Equal Opportunity Office will sponsor a free program in celebration of African-American/Black History Month.

This event will take place at Riley's Conference Center and is open to all Soldiers, their families and civilian employees.

I encourage everyone to participate in activities supporting this annual celebration that highlights and honors the struggles, accomplishments and ongoing

essential contributions made to our country.

During this celebration, the Equal Opportunity Office can offer ideas and resources to assist you in developing observances/displays or giving cultural awareness classes.

Commanders and supervisors are encouraged to provide support to personnel who plan to conduct, promote and/or attend planned observances commensurate with mission and training requirements.

The Equal Opportunity Office, Building 307, should be contacted before conducting activities related to this observance.

This information is used to highlight Fort Riley's continued support of the contributions and accomplishments of African Americans.

The point of contact for assistance and feedback is the Equal Opportunity Office at 239-8433.



Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy

### Grunt By Wayne Udden

WHY STICK  
A FINGER IN A PROBLEM  
WHEN YOU CAN DIVE  
IN WITH BOTH BOOTS...



### FORT RILEY POST

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### How does the Post rate?

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Your opinion is important to the Post editor and staff. Please take a moment to tell us how well we are doing our job of keeping you informed about what is happening at Fort Riley. Fax the form to (785) 239-2592 or clip and mail this form to Editor, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442, or drop the form at building 405. You may also send your opinions to the staff by e-mail at [mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil).

### What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas): \_\_\_\_\_



## Post news in brief

### Fund custodian class offered

Family Readiness Group fund custodian training is scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Soldier and Family Support Center. The class will cover basic instruction on maintaining FRG fund records, fund-raising regulations and the appropriate uses of FRG funds.

All FRG fund custodians should attend the class and FRG leaders and commanders are encouraged to attend.

Registration is required and free childcare is available with reservations. Parents must bring the child's shot records.

For more information or to register for the class, call Sonya Brown, Family Readiness Center coordinator, at 239-9435.

### Directorate staff slates training

Following are training classes scheduled by the Directorate of Environment and Safety during February:

**Environmental Team Training Refresher:** Annual refresher to the Environmental Team Training.

Class starts at 9 a.m. Feb. 23 in Room 6 of Building 407. Duration: 2 1/2 hours.

**Battery Hazard Awareness Training (Code Name Lithium):** The Code Name Lithium course is designed for key personnel who in their course of duty receive, store, issue and then transport lithium batteries

for disposal. This course includes training on the characteristics and hazards associated with the various types of lithium batteries used on Fort Riley. This course also includes training on health, safety and personal protective equipment. This class is high recommended by the Communications and Electronics Command (CECOM).

Class starts at 10 a.m. every Wednesday in February in Building 1930 at Camp Funston. Duration: 1 hour

For more information or to enroll in a class, call 239-0446 or check with the unit's schools noncommissioned officer.

### Program offers team classes

Three Army Family Team Building classes will be offered at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St., Junction City, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 18. Those classes will be "Management Skills: Crisis and Grieving," "Adapting to Change" and "Stress Management."

Two classes will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, on post. Those classes will be "Building a Cohesive Team" and "Group Conflict Management."

For more information about Family Team Building classes at the ASYMCA and the Soldier and Family Support Center, call the Soldier and Family Support Center at 239-9435.

# Engineers blow things up

## Demolition training 'fun,' builds critical skill experience

By Christopher Selmek  
19th PAD

An Army engineer's work typically consists of maintenance, said Spc. Jason Wickham of Company A, 1st Engineer Battalion, at Fort Riley.

But, every once in a while they get to do something fun — example: blow stuff up.

The engineers got to experience some of that "fun" Feb. 2-4 when they ran a demolition range to give Soldiers experience setting charges and viewing the results of their work in preparation for real-world missions.

Among the tasks conducted at this range were a skill level one refresher, a Bangalore breach and a road crater, all prepared differently and used to accomplish a different goal.

"The hardest part for a lot of people is the math," said Spc. Waldemar Villegas, also of Co. A.

"If you don't want to completely destroy something, there's a lot of equations that go into it based on what you want to blow up, how big you want the explosion to be and where you want it to go," he said.

Training on the demolition range is an annual requirement for engineers, although they try to go twice a year if they are able, said 1st Lt. Jeremy Ebdrup, range officer in charge.

These tasks closely resemble the unit's mission in Iraq or other deployments where their job is to create and destroy obstacles.

"Sometimes (we do) both," Villegas said. "We get to see both sides, build and destroy."

Making things explode involves many subtleties, Villegas said.

The Bangalore breach, for example, is a surface explosion used to clear concertina wire and other obstacles. The setup needed to create a large crater that makes a road unusable is more complicated.

"What we just did is bury six 40-pound crater charges five feet apart and five feet deep," Wickham explained.

"There are 10 additional pounds of C4 in each hole, and the whole thing is set on a five-minute fuse. There are a lot of explosives there. It's going to make a big boom," he said.

Once the fuse is lit, the engineers have five minutes to get away from the explosion — more than enough time to move away a safe distance.

If for any reason something goes wrong, the Soldiers are trained to duck and cover in order not to be hurt.

Most Soldiers agreed that explosions made up the most fun part of their job.

"This is the best day of the week," Villegas said. "This is what the recruiters tell you you're going to be doing when you become an engineer."

"It's the best part of the MOS (Military Occupation Specialty)," Wickham said. "There are all kinds of ways to blow stuff up."



19th PAD/Selmek  
Spc. Thomas Hanson (front), of Co. A, 1st Eng. Bn., carries 20 pounds of C4 explosive in preparation for creating a road crater during the unit's demolition training Feb. 3. Taking part in the training is Spc. Jason Wickham (left) and Pfc. Jeremy Babson (right)



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# Army invites Soldiers to aim for trophies

By Paula Randall Pagán  
Army Marksmanship Unit

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit will host the All-Army Small Arms Championships in conjunction with the U.S. Army Infantry Center March 12 to 24. Soldiers and units will compete with the M-16 rifle or M-4 carbine, M-9 pistol and M-24 or M-14 rifles against counterparts from the regular Army, Reserve, National Guard and Cadet Command. The USAMU has a limited number of weapons available for Soldiers and cadets who do not have assigned weapons.

"The advanced shooting experience gained in these challenging matches will translate into better trained and confident Soldiers, ready to meet the challenges of the global war on terrorism," said USAMU Commander Lt. Col. David J. Liwanag. "These championships are the pinnacle of in-service Army competitive marksmanship training."

Soldiers who excel in the All-Army Championships may be

## Army Marksmanship Unit

**Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army.**  
**The marksmanship unit trains its Soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development.**  
**The world-class Soldier-athletes of the USAMU also promote the Army and assist recruiters in attracting young Americans to enlist in the Army.**  
**For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436.**

selected to compete on the Army, Army Reserve or National Guard Rifle and Pistol Teams in the Interservice and National Championship competitions. Winners of designated matches and classifications may be awarded Secretary of the Army Trophy rifles.

Rifle matches will be shot at ranges from 200 to 500 yards. Pistol matches will be fired under combat time standards at seven to 25 yards. All firing will be done with helmet and individual combat gear (minus body armor and mask). Long-range matches will be fired at ranges

of 600 to 1,000 yards.

Matches are open to all Soldiers worldwide of any military occupational specialty, and U.S. Military Academy and ROTC cadets. Squad-size teams will be from brigades, divisions, major commands, each individual state and territory and Army Reserve major subordinate commands.

For more information on the All-Army Small Arms Championships, call (706) 545-7841 (DSN 835-7841).

A copy of the program and schedule is available at [www.usamu.com](http://www.usamu.com) on the Web.

## Army tests M-9, future sidearms

By Nikki St. Amant  
Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The Directorate of Combat Developments and Soldier Battle Lab began an experiment Jan. 24 analyzing the current-issue M-9 handgun and possible alternative weapons.

"I want to make it clear, this is not a selection of a new pistol," said Charley Pavlick, project officer with DCD's Small Arms Division. "We are responding to concerns we have from (Soldiers

deployed for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom) that report a lack of confidence in the M-9 for several reasons. This is an analysis of different features and characteristics that are available with other weapons platforms."

Some of the concerns with the M-9 include many stoppages, uncomfortable function control and the low lethality of the 9mm ball round, Pavlick said.

The Army hasn't made an official decision to make a move from the M-9 to a new sidearm, Pavlick

said. DCD will rewrite the draft requirements documents after the experiment is complete, and then officials will make a decision.

Staff Sgt. Michael Morten is one of the test firers. He fired the .45-caliber version of the Smith and Wesson 99.

"You can really feel the difference," he said of the Smith and Wesson. "It fits better in my hand. The sights are easier. I thought it would have more kick being a .45, but the recoil is the same as the 9mm. I thought it was excellent," he said.

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# Former 1st Brigade commander receives awards

By April Blackmon  
Staff writer

Col. "Buck" Connor, assistant division commander for maneuver, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Riley, received the Bronze Star with "V" device and the Legion of Merit at the post's Blue Chip Social Feb. 3.

Connor earned the medal with valor device for his work as 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division,

commander during the brigade's deployment to Iraq September 2003 through September 2004.

For 12 months, the brigade's offensive operations killed 541 insurgents, wounded 101 more and detained more than 2,081 enemy fighters, including the capture of 18 high-value targets and 20 foreign fighters.

The brigade withstood hundreds of small arms and rocket-propelled grenade engagements, as well as more than 550 impro-

vised explosive device attacks.

The brigade's cache searches and explorations captured 41 heavy machine guns, 175 RPG launchers, 3,134 mortar and artillery rounds, 1,781 rockets and 17 surface-to-air missiles, disrupting the enemy's ability to conduct operations.

"What Col. Connor was able to do with the team and what the team did under his leadership is exactly what the Army is all about," said Maj. Gen. Dennis

Hardy, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, at the social.

The Bronze Star is awarded to Soldiers for heroic or meritorious achievement of service, not involving aerial flight, in connection with operations against an opposing force.

The award was presented to Connor for exceptional meritorious heroism in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Connor also received the

Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious service while commanding the 1st BCT.

"I'm very humbled by these awards," Connor said.

"The only reason I have these is because I had great commanders, great first sergeants, great sergeants major and great Soldiers.

"I'm very proud to have been a small part of the 1st Brigade Combat Team," the former brigade commander said.



Col. "Buck" Connor, assistant division commander for maneuver, 24th Inf. Div., wears the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal for Valor awarded Feb. 3.

Post/Blackmon

## Post news in brief

### Toastmasters seek members

Anyone wanting to overcome the fear of public speaking or to sharpen your leadership skills, a new club called O'Bill's Toastmasters may help.

This new club seeks members from the Fort Riley community and the Junction City area. It is a non-profit, mutual support and leadership building organization that promotes a positive learning environment. This new club will be a part of Toastmasters International.

For more information about O'Bill's' meeting times and locations in local area, call Jim Hill at 761-1130. For more information about Toastmasters International, visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org) on the Web.

### Airline passes available

Family members of military passengers on commercial aircraft may now be given a pass for the following reasons:

- To escort the military passenger to the gate
- To meet a military passenger's inbound arrival at the gate.

The family member can now go to the airline that the military member is flying on and receive a pass to go to the gate.

The family member will be required to have a pass and a photo ID to get past the security checkpoint.

### Claims due within 70 days

Soldiers must submit claims for household goods shipment damage on DD Form 1840R (pink) to the Fort Riley claims office within 70 days of receiving their shipment, or the amount allowed for damage may be greatly reduced, according to representatives of the post's Staff Judge Advocate's Office.

The completed claim packet must be submitted within two years after delivery.

The claims office is located in Room 106 of Patton Hall, Building 200.

For more information, call 239-3830 or 239-2633.

### Antiterrorism training online

Antiterrorism Awareness Training required annually for all military, Department of the Army civilians and Department of Defense contract workers is available online at <http://at-awareness.org>.

To access the training site, use the access code word "aware."

Personnel traveling overseas need to take the training before deployment.

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# Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, February 11, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 9

## Community news briefly

### Spouses plan special night

The Fort Riley Enlisted Spouses' Club plans a crafts and chocolate night beginning at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St. in Junction City. Members and prospective members can attend. For more information, call the club's president, Sherri Miller, at 770-9219, or send her e-mail at [escpresident@hotmail.com](mailto:escpresident@hotmail.com).

### Council meets at Riley's

The monthly Community Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Feb. 16 at Riley's Convention Center.

For more information, call the Soldier and Family Support Center at 239-9435.

### Youth services seeks teachers

Instructors are needed for dance, violin, voice, guitar, martial arts and any other form of instructional programming someone is interested in teaching. Instructors also are needed to teach week-long summer camps.

Classes will be held on Fort Riley and may be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor or based on need. Instructors will be paid as contractors.

For more information, contact the Instructional Programs Specialist at (785) 239-4723 or Central Registration at (785) 239-4847.

### Library invites teddy bears

Children are invited to bring their favorite teddy bear (or other stuffed buddy) to a Valentine's Day teddy bear picnic at the Fort Riley Post Library during storytime beginning at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 12.

Valentine's stories will be read and light snacks provided. The listeners will make a teddy bear mask for themselves and a party hat for their teddy bears.

February storytimes will be centered around friendship and learning how to be a good friend. Children are encouraged to bring old and new friends along to share the fun. Kids of all ages are welcome, and parents should accompany their children.

Storytimes are free, but parents must accompany children younger than 10.

The Fort Riley Post Library is in Building 5306 on Custer Hill. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The library is closed on Mondays.

For more information, call Victoria Martin at 239-9582.

### Latino group plans skating

The Latino Organization will be hosting a family skating party on from 3 to 5 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Junction City Roundabout skating rink. The event is open to the public. Cost is \$2 per person.

### Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

## Red Cross needs blood donors

By Bree Cox  
American Red Cross

The Red Cross needs more than 120 blood donors for its blood drive Feb. 15 and 16 on post.

High O-negative blood usage and low numbers of O-negative donors have led to a severe shortage of the universal blood type in the American Red Cross Central Plains Region, said Diane Elder, chief operations officer.

The blood drive on post will

run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 15 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 16 at Riley's Convention Center. All blood donors are needed, especially O-negative donors.

"O-negative can be transfused to a patient with any blood type in an emergency," Elder said. "As

of Feb. 7), we had seven pints of O-negative blood on our shelf. We like to have at least 100 pints. It is vital we have enough blood tested, processed and on the shelf, ready for any emergency. Seven pints of O-negative certainly does not leave us as prepared as we

would like to be for urgent medical situations."

About 500 blood donors are needed every day for the Red Cross Central Plains Region. The Central Plains Region serves 106

See Blood, Page 10

## Cookie?



Lady Troopers Janie Sajo (left), Betsy Young and Becky Willis set out cookies at a redeployment ceremony. Both the Lady Troopers and the Fort Riley chapter of the American Red Cross provide treats to Soldiers at the manifest site and goodies to family members and friends at the redeployment sites.

Post/Blackmon



Sgt. 1st Class Jasper Wiggins of HHHC, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, grabs some snacks while waiting at the manifest site.

Post/Blackmon

## Lady Troopers, Red Cross volunteers 'treat' Soldiers

By April Blackmon  
Staff writer

Several tables stretch out in one corner of Craig Fitness Center, the site where Fort Riley's 3rd Brigade Combat Team massed to be manifested for their deployment to Iraq the end of January.

Some tables held fresh coffee, home-baked treats and other donated items, including bottled water, crackers, boxed cookies, etc.

Another table held new donated books - everything from Bibles to romance novels to westerns to sci-fi to suspense books. Even children's books were available for Soldiers to pick up and send home to their children later.

Behind the tables stood a group of dedicated volunteers from the Lady Troopers of Junction City and the Fort Riley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Lady Troopers organized in January 1991 and have worked beside the Red Cross volunteers to man every canteen for Soldiers deploying overseas since Operation Desert Storm as well as for most redeployments.

"The Lady Troopers were formed as a support for Fort Riley," said Diane Hepler, Lady Troopers cookie chairman. "They

really felt the need of volunteers to help with the canteens. (Since) this started (for Operation Desert Storm), it's just kind of never stopped, because the troops are so appreciative of such a little thing."

Since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in 2003, about 25 Lady Troopers members from Fort Riley, Junction City and Manhattan, as well as half a dozen husbands of members, have helped man the canteen. Several Red Cross staff and volunteers have helped as well.

"The canteen is our main volunteer supportive service, along with the social support of spouses on Fort Riley," said Janie Sajo, Lady Troopers canteen chairman. "We really enjoy this, and it means a lot to the ladies."

Volunteers said they really enjoy donating their time and baking skills to the cause.

"We always think we get more out of it than what they do. It's nice to talk to them," Hepler said.

"It's really fun to talk to the Soldiers; they're always so upbeat. It's a wonderful attitude," Sajo said.

"It just feels good to help out. Volunteering is a good thing," said Mary Bon-

See Canteens, Page 10

## Cadets picked for class at Point

### Two JROTC students aim for careers as officers

By Christopher Selmek  
19th PAD

"I will always conduct myself to bring credit to my family, country, school and the Corps of Cadets. I am loyal and patriotic. I am the future of the United States of America," states the creed of the Junior ROTC Cadet.

For some of the high school students participating in the Corps' program, there is no higher honor than to take a place among the U.S. military's corps of commissioned officers, filling a role they have spent much time preparing for.

Three Junction City High School students have taken big steps leading toward that goal following graduation from high school.

Cadet Lt. Col. Shannon Cobb, the Blue Jay battalion's commander, and Cadet Capt. Denise Quigley, the battalion's S3, have been accepted for appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Cadet 1st Lt. Patrick Higginbottom, son of Lt. Col. Michael S. Higginbottom, commander of 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, at Fort Riley, has been selected to attend the preparatory school for West Point.

Cobb's and Quigley's appointments are equivalent to two four-year scholarships, \$350,000 college scholarships.

said retired Lt. Col. Robert Kennedy, senior instructor for the high school's JROTC program.

"I'm proud of my accomplishments," Quigley said, "but after all the work I've done, I really feel that I've earned this acceptance. At this point, I'd actually be disappointed if I didn't get in."

Both academy appointees come from military families. Cobb has a sister in her second year at West Point, so she has some idea of what life will be like at the academy.

"The military has been with me my entire life," she said. "As long as I can remember, I never intended to do anything else. This is what I grew up with."

Quigley, however, was quick to

See Cadets, Page 10

## TRICARE requires baby enrollment

TriWest Alliance  
Special to the Post

Life can get hectic when there's a new addition to the family, but don't let time slip away before enrolling the new loved one in the TRICARE Prime health care plan.

Under TRICARE's new policy,

parents have 60 days from the birth or adoption of TRICARE-eligible children to enroll them in TRICARE Prime to help avoid delays or gaps in processing health care claims.

Children must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database within the first 60 days of their life or adoption or they will not

show as being eligible for TRICARE Prime benefits.

To register, obtain a copy of the child's birth certificate, certificate of live birth or adoption papers and file it with the post personnel office. If the sponsor is deployed or on temporary duty, the other parent or a guardian should be prepared to show power of attorney to register the child.

With unique issues brought about by deployments, the enrollment time may be extended in certain cases.

For questions about TRICARE coverage, visit [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com) on the Web, call (888) TRIWEST, or contact the DEERS support office at (800) 538-9552 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.





# Annual contest seeks youth, adult writers in Kansas

## Unpublished stories, poetry eligible for prizes totaling \$900, publication in anthology

### Kansas Voices

#### Special to the Post

All Kansas writers are encouraged to enter the 16th annual Kansas Voices Writing Contest. Writers may enter either youth or adult divisions in two categories: poetry and prose (short story).

Youth Division entrants must be enrolled in high school or

under 18 years of age.

To be eligible, writers must live in Kansas. All entries must be postmarked by March 15. There is no requirement for subject matter, and all entries are judged entirely on literary merit.

Entries must be unpublished stories or poems accompanied by an official entry form and a \$3 entry fee for each submission.

Guidelines and entry forms are available through the Winfield Arts and Humanities Council, 700 Gary, Suite A & B, Winfield, KS 67156.

Prize money totaling \$900 will be awarded: \$275 each for first prize in adult poetry and prose, \$75 each for first prize in youth poetry and prose, and a total of \$200 in honorable mention

entries.

Winners will be honored and invited to read their work at a special presentation at Winfield Baden Square, 700 Gary, Winfield, on April 30 as a part of the KANZA DAYS celebration.

For more information, call (620) 221-2161, extension 0, or download an entry form from [www.winfield.netj-wahc](http://www.winfield.netj-wahc) on the

Web.

Essie Sappenfield, a writer who moved to Kansas from Texas in 1988, conceived the idea for Kansas Voices. In 1990, with the support of the Winfield Arts and Humanities Council, the Kansas Arts Commission and numerous volunteers, the first Kansas Voices contest was held. More than 500 entries were received during the

first year of the contest.

Last year, almost 1,000 entries were received. Three books have been published: "Kansas Voices: Winning Entries from the First Five Years 1990-1994," "Kansas Voices: Winning Entries from the Second Five Years 1995-1999," and "Kansas Voices: Winning Entries from the Third Five Years 2000-2004."



Post/Heronemus

## Congratulations, keep selling

Diane Hardy, wife of Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, congratulates the top cookie-selling Girl Scouts at her home Feb. 5. Top sellers were (from left) Rebecca Slover, Troop 527; Ally Gettman, Troop 528; Ashley Locklear, Troop 522; Tressa Bell, Troop 307; Cheyanne Higgins, Troop 310; Adriana Gonzalez, Troop 536; Jaliyah Doughty, Troop 532; and Julia Magahan, Troop 543. Not present were top sellers Kierra Sherman, Troop 309; Kaylyn Jones, Troop 370; and Alisha Moody, Troop 517. Higgins had sold the most cookies to date – more than 500 boxes. Troops will be selling from 6 to 8 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends Feb. 19 through March 19 at the PX until all the cookies are sold.

## Canteens

continued from page 9

neau, Red Cross volunteer from Fort Riley.

The volunteers are ready at a phone call's notice to serve, oftentimes waking up in the middle of the night or the last minute to head to the manifest or redeployment sites.

"They come here at two in the morning or four in the morning because you never know when the times will be," Hepler said.

"We have a handful of ladies and husbands who are willing to do the middle of the nights, and that's great," Sajjo said.

In addition to the cookies and drinks, these volunteers serve as the last Fort Riley civilian faces the Soldiers see before they deploy – one final touch of home before a long journey to war.

"We feel kind of like the last touch of home with the cookies and the smiles, and we hope that's a good feeling for them," Hepler said.

"It's one last bit of home before they leave, because their wives can't come in here. And they wait here for hours. Sometimes, when the buses don't come, it's hours upon hours," said Janelle Allen, a Red Cross volunteer.



Post/Blackmon

Lady Trooper Becky Willis (right) gives cookies to Lon Gonzales (far left) and her daughters, Dream (left) and Amani, at a redeployment ceremony.

Operation Iraqi Freedom, compared to when the group first started with Desert Storm, is a much bigger job for the volunteers, Hepler said.

"The minute you're done with deployment, they start with redeployment. So it's been a lot of continual baking," she said.

And the group has done a great

deal of baking. Most of the goods are homemade.

Volunteers have made more than 60,000 cookies, Rice Krispy treats and brownies in the past few weeks, Sajjo said.

The most popular baked good for manifesting Soldiers has been the Rice Krispy treats, followed closely by brownies, Sajjo said.

## Cadets

continued from page 9

point out that family was not the only reason for her pursuing this career path.

"I never thought about joining the Army until my sophomore year, when I joined (J)ROTC," she said. "I realized there were more options than enlisting or going to college and getting an education. You can go a different route. You can do both.

"The fact that it's so dangerous right now almost makes you want to do it more, just to put yourself through that and see what you can do," she added.

Both appointees claim they have done more work in JROTC than in any other class they have in school.

The acceptance standards look at leadership, athletics, scholarship and community service, so it's important to be well-rounded to make the grade, the two JROTC cadets agreed.

"They have really high standards and they look at the total package," Cobb said.

"We both have jobs in addition to all the community and class work we do, and you have to be able to balance that," she said.

The JROTC cadets graduate from high school on May 22 and begin their course at West Point on June 27.

## Blood

continued from page 9

hospitals in Kansas and northern Oklahoma.

"We often relate blood needs to traumas – which often require a lot of blood – but we want to encourage people to understand there are many, many needs for blood every day," Elder said.

"Heart surgeries, joint-replacement surgeries, cancer and leukemia treatments and many other medical procedures depend on the availability of blood and platelets," she said.

Blood and platelet donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. Most medications do not prevent people from giving blood. Drinking plenty of water prior to donating blood is recommended.

Prospective donors should call (800) 448-3543 to schedule an appointment at the Fort Riley Red Cross blood drive. Walk-in blood donors also are welcome. Everyone who donates receives a free T-shirt.

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# Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, February 11, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

## Sports news in brief

### Rec Center offers archery

The Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center, 9011 Rifle Range Road, will offer an archery familiarization class at its range on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m. March 8 through April 7. Cost for each class attended is \$2, and attendance can be in those classes that fit the individual's schedule.

An archery top gun competition is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 9.

For more information, call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

### Hunters can enter contest

All hunters harvesting turkey in the hunting areas of Fort Riley can enter the 2005 Longest Turkey Beard Contest sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Registration for the contest will be March 17 through April 1. Spring turkey hunting season is April 13 through May. The youth season for hunters 16 and younger is April 8-10.

Hunters who want to enter the contest can sign up at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 9011, Rifle Range Road. Cost is \$15 per person. The number of participants in the contest will determine the prizes to be awarded in three categories: typical, non-typical and youth.

Hunters on Fort Riley must possess a Kansas Hunting License, Hunter Safety Card and a Fort Riley Hunting Permit.

For more information about the contest and about hunting on Fort Riley, call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

### Women's hoop season opens

Registration is open now for the Fort Riley Community Life Sports Program basketball teams. The program is open to all female family members of active duty and retired military, as well as Department of Army civilians, contractors and AAFES employees working on Fort Riley. Participants must be at least 18 years old to play. Registration is \$50 per team. For more information, call 239-3764.

### Army seeking soccer players

Applications for participation in the 2005 All Army Women's Soccer program are due to the morale, welfare and recreation program manager of the Installation Management Agency's Northwest Regional Office by March 1.

All-Army Sports is looking forward to recruiting an outstanding team to compete in the 2005 Women's Armed Forces Soccer Championship. Application information is available on the Army MWR Web site at [www.armymwr.com](http://www.armymwr.com).

Player selection criteria include the strength of the submitting player's resume, prior selection to All-Army teams, prior selection to armed forces teams, the highest level of school competition, exceptional awards, prior coaches' recommendations and current All-Army team's coaches' recommendations in collaboration with the All-Army sports specialist selecting official.

For more information, call DSN 793-8796 or (309) 782-8748.

## Negro League ball movie planned

By Michelle Hall  
and Keener A. Tippin II  
Kansas State University

MANHATTAN — Imagine throwing your 50th lifetime no hitter and then walking home still wearing your dusty game clothes because you're not allowed to shower in the stadium you just helped sell out.

Or, picture hitting the only home run ever out of Yankee Stadium and being told you can't celebrate with dinner in a restaurant down the road because of the color of your skin.

Negro Baseball League players didn't have to imagine these situations. These were real-life inequalities they dealt with on a daily basis from 1920 to 1947.

America was a segregated society in those days with 'No Blacks'

signs hung on the doors of most hotels, restaurants, theaters and restrooms all across America. No black athletes played in Major League Baseball either.

Like those players who were always hopeful they would get a shot to play in the major leagues, Kansas State University President Jon Wefald has long hoped people would someday be able to do

more than just imagine this era. For several years, Wefald has been lobbying to have a movie made on the days of Negro League Baseball. His lobbying efforts have finally paid off.

Dick Robertson, president of Warner Bros. domestic television distribution, said the Hollywood motion picture company plans to honor the legacy of black baseball players from that era with a tele-

vision miniseries right after the 2006 World Series. The miniseries will chronicle the history of the Negro Leagues.

Robertson made the announcement recently at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum's fifth annual Legacy Awards at the Gem Theater in Kansas City, Mo.

Wefald's interest in the Negro

See Movie, Page 12

## Teamwork wins

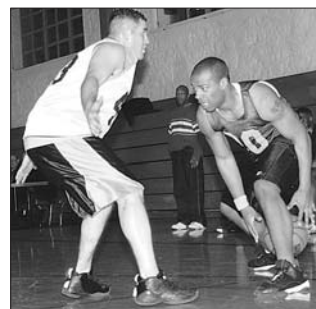
Btry. B, 1st Bn., 5th FA's, Tim O'Connor (34) and Jon Belew (31), and HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor's, Brandon McCoy (30) watch as C. Gilot (16) of HHC goes up for a shot against Btry. B's Victor Martinez (43).

Post/Blackmon



Jonny Conejo (1) of Btry. B, 1st Bn., 5th FA, goes up for a shot against HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor's, Elisak Roberts (15) and Marcus Minor (20) in the Feb. 3 Armor victory.

Post/Blackmon



Brandon McCoy (30) of HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, prepares to drive toward the basket while Victor Martinez (43) defends for Btry. B, 1st Bn., 5th FA.

## 34th Armor defeats 5th Artillery

By April Blackmon  
Staff writer

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, defeated Battery B, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, 72-48 in Western League play Feb. 3 at King Field House.

"They came out and played a pretty good game ... even with not much of a chance to practice," said HHC Coach Oliver Raglin. The lack of practice didn't affect HHC's teamwork. A majority of the players have been playing together for the past few years, Raglin said. It was that teamwork in conjunction with strong defensive action and several steals that helped HHC take a strong lead early in the game. HHC hit the net quickly, scoring 12 points before Btry. B could put up two. The Armor team maintained their double-digit lead throughout most of the first half and ended up with a 44-30 halftime lead.

Armor's Elisak Roberts led the team with 18 first-half points. Jon Belew led Btry. B with 14 first-half points.

Exploding in the second half, HHC outscored Btry. B 18-3 in the first nine minutes of play. Deon Lee and Brandon McCoy led the second-half scoring drive with nine points each. Belew added nine points to Btry. B's effort, but the team was unable to recover from the 20-plus point deficit.

Roberts led HHC scoring with 19 points, followed by Lee with 17. C. Gilot made 12 points and Albert Kelly tallied eight.

Belew made 21 points and Jordan Martin scored 11 points for Btry. B. Jonny Conejo and Tim O'Connor each scored five points.

### Western League Standings

(as of Feb. 3)

Team	W	L
331st Signal	5	1
HHC, 1-16	7	0
HHC, 1-5	4	1
A, 1-5	2	3
B, 1-5	0	8
Co. B, 101st FSB	3	1
HHC, 1-34	2	3
C, 1-34	1	6
A, 1-34	2	3

## Wily coyote adapts readily to man's habitat



Alan Hynek

By Alan Hynek  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

The wily coyote has earned its reputation as the craftiest of wildlife. They have been shot at, poisoned, cussed and demonized. Yet this remarkable animal has not only survived an attempt at extermination, it has become the most widespread of all the large predators in North America.

### On the Wildside: News About Nature

Coyotes are omnivorous, eating a wide variety of prey and some plant matter. About 90 percent of their diet consists of mice, rats, rabbits, squirrels and carrion. Deer are occasionally consumed, but those are mostly sick or injured animals.

Coyotes have excellent hearing, sight and smell. In fact, the coyote's sense of hearing and smell are so keen

that a sudden change in odor or noise can make it change its course mid-step. Its agility in this respect is incredible, perhaps unique to all wildlife.

Coyotes, as well as wolves, were treated as spiritual creatures by many Native American tribes. The coyote was respected and imitated for its cunning and versatility.

European settlers found the coyote on the plains, prairies and deserts of central and western North America. They were soon regarded as a threat to livestock and considered a nuisance animal. Many states had a bounty on coyotes and some counties conducted organized hunts.

Still, the coyote persisted. Today, they are probably more adept at survival than at any time in their past.

See Coyote, Page 14





## Movie

continued from page 11

Baseball Leagues began a few years ago when he visited the league's museum in Kansas City. He also has become good friends with Buck O'Neil, the 93-year-old former first baseman and manager for the Kansas City Monarchs.

Wefald eventually wrote a paper on the history of some of the great Black teams and players of the league from 1920 to 1947 — the year Jackie Robinson made history by breaking into the major leagues.

The film will feature two of the great surviving former Negro League Baseball stars, Buck O'Neil and Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe.

The Kansas City Monarchs will be featured in the four-hour television movie, and it will probably highlight as well the legendary accomplishments of one of the great pitchers in the history of baseball, Satchell Paige, and one of the greatest home run hitters ever, Josh Gibson.

"It's a story about great people achieving great things in a segregated society governed by the so-called separate but equal Jim Crow laws of the first half of the 20th century," Wefald said.

The Negro Baseball Leagues came into existence in the 1920s, when baseball was truly America's sport. "The truth is some of the greatest baseball players in the entire history of American baseball were these same black players who played in the Negro Baseball Leagues from 1920 to 1947," Wefald said.

"They loved playing baseball," Wefald continued. "They aimed to be the best. They strove for excellence."

# Enforcers slip past services battalion

By April Blackmon  
Staff writer



Post/Blackmon

Emilanda Cange (34) of the 523rd MP Enforcers and Keelan Caldwell (4) of 15th PSB go for the loose ball while PSB's Shane LaBay (71) defends.

The 523rd Military Police Company "Enforcers" narrowly defeated 15th Personnel Services Battalion 51-48 in Southern League play Feb. 2 at King Field House.

It was "by the grace of God" that the Enforcers pulled off the win, said team member Gregory Stubbs, because most of his teammates were at the range.

The team barely made it to the game on time with five players. But, it wasn't all luck, he said.

"It was also hustle. We hustled on the backboard with rebounding and we got a lot of second-shot opportunities off those rebounds. All around we just hustled," Stubbs said.

In a close first half, PSB's Derrick Edwards sank a shot in the last 30 seconds of play to take the 24-22 halftime lead.

## Southern League Standings

(as of Feb. 2)

Team	W	L
10th ASOS	3	3
HHC, 24th ID	3	1
USA MEDDAC	3	2
15th PSB	0	6
172nd Chemical	5	1
HHC, 1st Eng Bn	0	4
Touch of Grey	4	2
15th Finance	3	3
523rd MPs	3	2

PSB's Kenny Scott made three 3-pointers to lead the team in first half-scoring. Enforcers' powerhouse Chrisby Casiano scored 18 of his team's 22 points in the first half.

Going virtually shot-for-shot for much of the game, the Enforcers were only able to take

an occasional six-point lead. The Enforcers' Jonathan Newlin, who returned from a four-month tour in Iraq just hours before the game, exploded in the second half with 12 points. Chris Williams scored 10 of his 16 points in the second half for PSB.

Play got aggressive near the end of the game, and the Enforcers were sent to the line numerous times for free throw opportunities that helped them maintain their lead.

Bad passes and several turnovers gave PSB a few extra shots at victory, and the team pulled within one point of the leaders with 15 seconds left in the game.

Scott totaled 12 points for PSB, Edwards scored 11 and Travis Williams added six. Stubbs scored six for the Enforcers.

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Post/Meek

## Blurred defense

Desante Browne draws a crowd of defenders as he attempts a shot at the Teen Center Feb. 5. Browne's team, the Vipers, defeated the Golden Eagles 21-8. In other youth basketball action that day, the Halos defeated the Red Raiders 20-18, the Sparks defeated the Milford Blue Devils 24-8, the Lady Wildcats defeated the Lakers 17-12 and the And One defeated the Ballers 32-19.

# Troopers split with Chapman

## B, D teams win; C team loses squeaker

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Fort Riley Middle School's Troopers split four games with Chapman Feb. 1 on the Troopers' court.

The B and D teams posted wins of 38-14 and 23-7, respectively. The C team lost a 33-32 squeaker and the A team fell 38-14.

Armogen Walker lit up the scoreboard for the Troopers in the B team game. He scored 10 points in the first half and six more in the second half.

Cameron Edwards added seven second-half points to two in the first half to follow Walker in the scoring department.

Teammate Zach Birchmeier added six. Cody Waterman posted five points in the scorebook and Randy Moss dumped in another two points in the final quarter to round out Trooper scoring.

Doni Hancock led the Troopers' D team scoring with six points in the first half and another two in the fourth quarter for eight total points. Three of his teammates, Jeremy Herman, Scott Jeffreys and Paul Freeman added four points each and Chris Jackson-Smith hit a trey in the third period to help out.

The Troopers' C team trailed 6-3 after one period, 17-10 after two periods and 25-16 after three periods but made a 16-point run in the final period to give Chapman a real scare. Chapman managed only eight points in the final stanza to see their nine-point lead dwindle to one at the final buzzer.

Justin Ramos thrilled Trooper fans with three treys — one each in the first, second and final quarters — and 14 total points.

Jermaine Byrd trailed Ramos by only two points for Trooper high-point honors for the game. Byrd managed only two points in the second quarter but came back after the halftime with four points in the third period and six more in the fourth quarter.

Josh Montgomery, Antonio Baskin and Larry Mitchell added two points each to round out the Troopers' scoring.

Chapman put together a 17-point second quarter to dishearten the Troopers' A team. The Troopers scored only five points in the second quarter after trailing Chapman 4-2 in the evenly matched opening period.

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## Coyotes continued from page 11

Even though they are still a threat to livestock, wildlife damage control is focused on individual coyotes rather than the entire population. It has been learned that only a few among those in the population most often cause most of the damage.

Also, coyotes play an important role in the balance of nature. Complete removal of this predator would have a significant impact on the small mammals and meso-predators, such as raccoons and opossums.

Although conflicts occasionally arise, the coyote indeed has its rightful place. Many farmers now appreciate its value as a scavenger

and a predator of rodents. The coyote's economic importance and its role in nature should be considered in any evaluation of the animal.

Over the years, the coyote has been coveted for its pelt. In the 1980s, it was not uncommon for a good tanned fur to fetch upwards of \$100. Today, the price per pelt averages \$10 to \$20. Most coyote furs, as well as other furs, are shipped to Canada and countries overseas where wearing furs is much more common.

Coyotes are best known for their trademark howl. The coyote can also bark, growl, wail and squeal. Although often silent in

daytime, it may make itself heard anytime from sunset to sunrise and especially at dusk and dawn.

Often times, the howling of one triggers that of the others, resulting in an impressive concert. Two coyotes howling in unison can create the illusion of a dozen or more animals.

The coyote's howling intrigues researchers, who suspect it to be a means of communicating with other coyotes, although no one is

really sure. One howl invariably brings a reply, and then a sort of commentary followed by another prolonged cry, and finally a volley of raucous yelping.

Personally, I think the coyote is just letting us know it is there.

For more information, contact the Conservation Division, Building 1020, at 239-6211 or visit our Web site at [www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatResources/](http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Fort/Environment/NatResources/).

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## Community news briefly

### Spouses set February table

The Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club at Fort Riley will host a "Spread the Love" luncheon at 11 a.m. Feb. 17 in Riley's Convention Center.

The club will be collecting donations for the Fort Riley Chapter of the American Red Cross to help raise money for the tsunami disaster relief. Every \$5 contribution earns the donor an opportunity to win a spa package.

For more information, send e-mail to [fortrileyoesc@yahoo.com](mailto:fortrileyoesc@yahoo.com) or call The Shoppe at 239-2743.

### Gardening trip features classes

Gardeners and flower growers can get a headstart on the coming growing spring by taking part in the "Let's Get Read for Spring!" visit to West Acres Nursery, 2516 W. Kansas Highway 18, on the outskirts of Junction City.

The Outdoor Recreation Center at Fort Riley is sponsoring the free visit from 1 to 2 p.m. March 5. Interested gardeners and flower growers should sign up at the rec center, 9011 Rifle Range Road, or call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

Classes at the nursery will cover soil temperatures, when to plant, how to prepare the beds, container planting and vegetable and flower plant beds.

### Riley's to host Valentine buffet

Military ID card holders can show their special someone they care by starting the Valentine's Day holiday with a special breakfast buffet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 13 at Riley's Conference Center. Diners can help themselves to scrambled eggs, gash brown potatoes, bacon, sausage, French toast, carved ham, fruit, orange juice, coffee and hot tea. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$4.50 for children ages 3 to 12. Diners can pay at the door and reservations will not be necessary.

For more information, call Riley's Conference Center at (785) 784-1000.

### Crafts center slates classes

**Feb. 12 and 13** - 2 to 4 p.m., introduction to black and white photography.

**Feb. 16** - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., stained glass

For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

### Teen Center slates activities

**Feb. 11** - 8 to 10:30 p.m., middle school dance

**Feb. 12** - 9 to 11:30 p.m., high school dance

**Feb. 18** - 7 to 10 p.m., pool party at Long Fitness Center

**Feb. 19** - 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., middle school lock in

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

### Baby-sitting class offered

The Red Cross schedules a baby-sitting course the third Saturday each month in Building 5800. The next class will be Feb. 19. Cost is \$10. Enrollees must be 11 years old or older. All youth age 12 to 18 years old who successfully complete the course qualify for placement on the Fort Riley Baby-sitting Referral List, if they have parental permission to do so.

For more information, call 239-5077 or 239-4847.

### Chapel needs musicians

The contemporary Protestant worship service is in need of a pianist, bass player and acoustic guitar player for its Sunday morning services in Kapaun Chapel on Custer Hill.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings.

Anyone interested should call Juanita Boudreaux at 784-2918.

### Society seeks aid requests

The Historical & Archeological Society of Fort Riley is taking applications for its annual community assistance distributions. Applications are available by contacting Karen Higdon at 784-4044. Deadline for application submission is Feb. 15.

For more information, call Higdon or send her e-mail to [kmhigdon@aol.com](mailto:kmhigdon@aol.com).

### BOSS sets activities

**Feb. 16** - 3:30 p.m., meeting at Rally Point.

For more information, call 239-8147.

### Club seeks nominees

The Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club is accepting nominees for elected and appointed board positions. Elected positions are the president, first vice president, second vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer.

Appointed positions are community assistance, historian, hospitality, membership, parliamentarian, Plain Talk newsletter, property manager, publicity, reservations, retiree representative, Shoppe manager, bookkeeper and liaison, ways and means, child care coordinator and Webmaster

The slate for nominated elected officers will be presented to the general membership at the March 17 luncheon. Elections will take place at the April 21 luncheon, and installation of new officers will take place at the May 19 luncheon

For more information, visit the club's Web site at <http://www.fortrileyoesc.com> or send e-mail to [fortrileyoesc@yahoo.com](mailto:fortrileyoesc@yahoo.com).

### Moms offered some time off

The Armed Services YMCA at 111 E. 16th St. in Junction City moms some time each week to take a break from their children.

Mom's Monday Out runs from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$7 for the first child older than 2 and \$6.25 for each additional child over age 2. Children under age 2 cost \$7.75 for the first child and \$7 for each additional child under age 2.

A snack lunch and snack must be provided for each child.

Mom's Morning Out runs from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays. Cost is \$7 for the first child older than 2 and \$6.25 for each additional child over age 2. Children under age 2 cost \$7.75 for the first child and \$7 for each additional child under age 2.

A snack lunch and snack must be provided for each child.

Mid-Week Break runs from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays. Cost is \$7 for the first child older than 2 and \$6.25 for each additional child over age 2. Children under age 2 cost \$7.75 for the first child and \$7 for each additional child under age 2.

A snack lunch and snack must be provided for each child.

For more information, call 238-2972 or send e-mail to [asymca@nqks.com](mailto:asymca@nqks.com).

### Pool staff hosts toddlers swims

Parents are invited to bring their little one - or ones - to the pool in Long Fitness Center, Building 8069, from 9 to 11 a.m. every Tuesday. The swim time is called "Mommy and Me," but daddies are welcome, too.

Cost is \$2 per family and the pool staff will provide lifejackets and toys for the toddlers plus fun music. Parents can wear tow lifejackets. Children can bring their own toys.

For more information, call 239-5888.

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# Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, February 11, 2005

## Leisuretime ideas

### At the movies:

The Barlow Post Theater Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Shows begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for Children 5 to 11 years old and free for children under age 5, except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

**Feb. 11** - White Noise (PG-13)

**Feb. 12** - 2 p.m., Fat Albert (PG)

**Feb. 12** - Constantine (R), premier showing, tickets available at all AAFES facilities. This is a free motion picture preview screening.

**Feb. 13** - White Noise (PG-13)

**Feb. 17** - Fat Albert (PG)

**Feb. 18** - Racing Stripes (PG)

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

### Manhattan:

**What:** "Fiddler on the Roof." A story magically woven with music, dance, poignancy, and laughter.

**When:** 8 p.m., Feb. 18

**Where:** McCain Auditorium  
**Phone:** (785) 532-6428  
**Admission:** Varies

**What:** National Acrobats of Taiwan.

**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 11

**Where:** McCain Auditorium  
**Phone:** (785) 532-6428  
**Admission:** Varies

### Salina:

**What:** "Beehive." Delightful musical revue sings and dances its way through girl groups of the '50s, '60s, and '70s.

**When:** Feb. 18, 20, 25 and 27

**Where:** 303 E. Iron, Salina Community Theatre

**Phone:** (785) 827-6126 or toll free at (877) 414-2367  
**Admission:** \$18-\$21

### Hutchinson:

**What:** "Sound of Music." This is the Family Children's Theatre's major musical production for the season.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17-20

**Where:** 101 S. Walnut, Memorial Hall  
**Phone:** (620) 662-7469  
**Admission:** Adults \$8; seniors \$6; children \$5

### Wichita:

**What:** Women's Fair. Exhibits, state show, shopping and demonstrations.

**When:** Noon to 7 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18-20

**Where:** 225 W. Douglas, Century II, Expo Hall  
**Phone:** (316) 267-5303  
**Admission:** \$6

**What:** Kansas Sports, Boat and Travel Show. Giant exhibits of boats, RVs, vacation ideas, travel packages, motorcycles, personal watercraft, hunting and fishing tackle, and supplies. Hunting and fishing professionals.

**When:** 5 to 9 p.m. Feb. 16-17; noon to 9 p.m. Feb. 18; 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 19; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 20

**Where:** 1229 E. 85th St. N., Kansas Coliseum, Valley Center  
**Phone:** (303) 892-6800 or (800) 457-2434  
**Admission:** \$7

### Lawrence:

**What:** Mardi Gras party featuring a live performance by the Kelley Hunt Band. Costumes welcomed and encouraged. King & Queen contests, carnival style games, face painting and photo booth.

**When:** Doors open at 6 p.m.; live performance 7 to 9:30 p.m.; DJ dance party 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Feb. 19

**Where:** 8 E. Sixth St.  
**Phone:** (785) 843-0040  
**Admission:** \$20 before 10 p.m.; \$10 after 10 p.m.

### Wamego:

**What:** "Camping with Henry & Tom." It's 1921 and President Harding wants to be with his mistress. Industrialist Henry Ford wants to be President, and inventor Thomas Edison wonders how the three of them ever got stuck in the woods together. A hilarious adventure.

**When:** Feb. 17-20 and Feb. 24-27; Thursday, Friday and Saturday buffet at 6 p.m. with performance at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday buffet at 12:30 p.m. with performance at 2 p.m.

**Where:** The Columbian Theatre, 521 Lincoln

**Cost:** Adult buffet \$17.13 (tax included), show \$17.66 (tax included)

**For more information or reservations,** call (800) 899-1893.

### Junction City:

**What:** WWE, WCW wrestling

**When:** 7 p.m. Feb. 19

**Where:** Junction City High School

**Admission:** \$10  
**For tickets:** Call JCPD, 762-5912.

## Slippin' around

**Air Force Staff Sgt. Ben Garrison (left), a joint terminal attack controller with 10th ASOS, and Airman 1st Class Brad Knepper, a tactical air command and control specialist with same unit, balance themselves on their snowboards before descending the 1,000-meter long intermediate skilled slope at Keystone. The BOSS ski trip Feb. 4-6 was the pair's first time on snowboards.**

Post/Baker



## Weekend trip gives all welcome break

By Jay Baker

Public affairs intern

Fifteen single Soldiers traveled as a group to Keystone, Colo., Feb. 4-6 for skiing, snowboarding and relaxing with friends.

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and Directorate of Moral, Welfare and Recreation organized the trip. The



Post/Baker

**Pfc. Lily Phuong tries on some snow boots at Keystone, Colo.**

weekend adventure was open to other federal employees, so four Air Force personnel and two Department of the Army civilians joined Soldiers for the 500-mile trip to take a break from work.

Pfc. Lily Phuong, a medic with Medical Department Activity at Fort Riley, said, "I work SRP (Soldier Readiness Processing) all day. I draw blood and check records. It can get boring, so I really wanted to do something different."

"I am shocked that I am the only female that showed up. I don't even know any of these guys," she added. "A couple of my girlfriends backed out at the last minute."

BOSS President Spc. Dwane Allen said, "I have never been skiing in my life. I don't know how to ski, but I want to try snowboarding."

Allen promoted the ski trip through his BOSS representatives in the units. He believed the trip would be fun even for those who couldn't ski or didn't plan to try.

Keystone has a spa and a few other things to do, Allen pointed out.

After a few runs down the mountain, Allen took his own advice, turned in his snowboard and headed to the recreation center.

"Snowboarding is one of those things that if you don't get it right away, I don't think you ever will," Allen said.

Other travelers, like Air Force Staff Sgt. Ben Garrison and Airman 1st Class Brad Knepper of the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron, spent more than 15 hours in two days on Keystone's slopes becoming more proficient at snowboarding.

"I have never been snowboarding, but

### Coming up

**BOSS will sponsor a free ski trip Feb. 23 for any active duty servicemember who wants to try the slopes at Snow Creek Ski Lodge in Weston, Mo.**

**The trip includes transportation, equipment rental, towrope ticket and a free lesson. Anyone interested should contact the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office at 239-5614.**

we both surfed so it's sort of the same, at least with balancing and turning," Garrison said.

"This is a good trip. We didn't even have to take leave because our supervisor said anyone who wanted to go gets a four-day pass. This is something I would do again if I had a chance," Knepper said.

The trip included two nights of lodging in a three-bedroom condo. Everyone said they were extremely happy with the rooms and no one had any complaints about the nearly 50-degree temperature that warmed the afternoon of Feb. 5.

During the weekend, Keystone started its Mardi Gras festivities and hosted the 15th Annual Military Snow Sports Weekend (SnoFest). Snofest is sponsored by the MWR offices at Colorado military installations. The event was for families and featured two dinner parties, ski or snowboard racing and a cardboard derby.

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